1: Honigmann E-5 (1943-1945) 1949 ND12 Nahane ND12

Adultery probably occurs more frequently than is known, but the offense is generally kept within the family and from police knowledge. Incest may also occur more commonly than is suspected. This is implied in the statement of Old Knee, blaming several cases of physical deformity on the fact that people are too "mixed up." Within the Indian community, drunkenness is scarcely considered as criminal and is regarded as good "fun" so long as it does not lead to violence. Lying is disliked but is not strongly resented. Braggarts, who overindulge in "bullshit," are secretly criticized and ridiculed. 68 [835]

Many property offenses are condoned with the realization that the owner must be careful not to give the impression of selfishness. A few individuals are widely known for their tendency to steal and such people receive careful watching. Indian caches and those of white trappers remain free from violation except in case of hunger, and even then will only be approached by the rare person with a pronounced predilection for stealing. Government supplies along the Alaska Highway were rarely disturbed by Indians, who had abundant opportunity to observe instances of disrespect for such property by their white neighbors. The accusation of trap line *infringement* is sometimes voiced, especially with regard to beaver trapping. Some white men are almost paranoiac in their suspicion that Indians are poaching on their lines, but most white trappers regard such intense insecurity as an unwarranted quirk of thinking. Several years ago Edward Prince was arrested and fined for hunting beaver on a white man's territory. It is not unusual for a number of youths to plan the stealing of a brew that is ready for drinking. No moral hesitation and little secrecy is apparent in such behavior, as anyone would agree who has seen a tract of bush alive with people hunting for a reported beer keg. The finders try to finish as much of the beverage as possible before they in turn are discovered. Young children often show a predilection for stealing small goody trifles, like toys, but are severely punished if discovered by parents. In the case of property offenses by adults, discovery generally leads to recrimination, a demand for the return of the stolen goods, or suppressed hostility. Offenses connected with the *non-fulfillment* of credit obligations to traders are rare. Such defaults would quickly result in the blocking of further credit and few persons could sustain this penalty. Between individuals, failure to repay loans may lead to recrimination and hostility. 685 183

Such most crimes and misdemeanors are discovered in Lower Post, which is in British Columbia, justice is largely administered by provincial officials. Punishable offenses discovered by the police do not generally lead to an open statement of arrest nor is the individual given his liberty under bail, since to announce arrest leads to the danger that the offender will remove himself from the community. Within three or four days following the offense, word circulates through the town that the magistrate will hold court in the afternoon. The policeman then informs those Indians, who have been "under arrest," that their trial is due that day. 692 694

According to provincial law all offenses, other than major crimes, regardless of the plea of the defendant, may be tried by a civil magistrate without a jury. For some years cases have been tried by elderly white prospectors, but in 1945 the police constable from Fort Nelson several times flew to Lower Post to act as magistrate. All hearings are conducted in English. Court is held in the Hudson's Bay Company's bunkhouse which is normally reserved for white trappers. A few boxes serve as seats for visitors, while the arresting 693 692